

**OVOFERRIN.**

Ovoferrin is a solution containing 5 per cent. of an artificial proteid-product in which iron is present in the so-called "organic" or "masked" form (a form which does not give the iron-test directly). The solution also contains 10 per cent. of alcohol and some aromatics.

**Actions and Uses.**—Ovoferrin is not appreciably affected by the gastric juice, a 0.5 per cent. solution of hydrochloric acid liberating its iron very slowly and incompletely. The product ranks with the other forms of artificially masked iron, which are devoid of the local action of the soluble inorganic iron salts, and, according to some authorities, are more readily absorbed and utilized. **Dosage.**—8 to 16 Cc. (2 to 4 fluidrams) corresponding to from 0.03 to 0.06 Gm. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 grain) three times a day. Manufactured by Barnes & Hille, Philadelphia.

The following articles were added to the list of New and Non-Official Remedies, approved by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry:

Guaiacol Carbonate Comp. (H. K. Mulford Co.)  
Neuro-Lecithin. (Abbott Alkaloidal Co.)  
Lecithol. (Armour & Co.)

**H. M. C. TABLETS.**

A correspondent writes:

"The January number of our Journal has just reached me, and I am very glad to note that you have referred so emphatically to the 'H. M. C.' tablets. I have heard of several babies born dead after the tablets had been used during confinement, but of course cannot be sure that the anesthetic was the cause. I believe hyoscin and morphin must be used with great care, if at all, in obstetric work, and I suspect that this free advertising of that combination by the Abbott Company is doing and will do much harm. Chloroform, used correctly, seems to me an almost ideal anesthetic for this work, as it is always under control, while anything given hypodermically is immediately beyond control and can not be called back. Furthermore, this applies very strongly to the fact that one is throwing into the fetal circulation extremely powerful chemicals without knowing what the result will be."

**CONTRACT PRACTICE.**

To the Editor of the State Journal:

Considerable has been said recently about the old line insurance companies cutting the examination fee from \$5.00 to \$3.00. In San Joaquin county recently a circular letter was sent to every member asking them to send the Secretary a list of all the insurance companies they examined for, also stating the fee paid, as an effort was to be made to make them restore the old rate.

That action was commendable and will, no doubt, bring good results; but there is a greater menace to our fee bill than this and far more demoralizing to the profession, to wit: Contract practice for lodges. Think of a doctor joining a lodge and signing a contract to do, not only the members' practice, but that of his entire family, for the pitiful sum of two dollars a year, if he live within seven miles of the lodge room!

Could anything be more demoralizing? Could a physician possessing any professional pride submit to such indignity? And yet the lodge doctor will say, "If I don't do it some other doctor will."

For the same reason would he perform an abortion and secure the fee, because if he did not some other doctor would?

If a new doctor comes in and goes to cutting the fees for the sake of getting practice, the profession sneer at him and rate him a cheap doctor, and yet nothing is quite so cheap as the lodge doc-

tor who does the whole family practice for two dollars a year. The insurance examination at one dollar would not be low enough to be in the same class. If the medical profession expect to maintain the respectability to which they are entitled they will take steps at once to suppress this great menace to the fee bill.

S. W. HOPKINS, M. D.

**TRAINING IN MEDICAL ORGANIZATION.**

The students of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School have formed an organization the purpose of which is to acquaint the undergraduates with the workings of the American Medical Association, after which it is very closely modeled. The various student societies take the place of the state organizations and elect members to a house of delegates which transacts all the business of the association. An annual meeting is held at which papers are read by chosen members, thus encouraging original research and a scientific spirit. The organization is named the Undergraduate Medical Association of the University of Pennsylvania, and already has over two hundred and fifty members.

**COUNTY SOCIETIES.****BUTTE COUNTY.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Butte County Medical Society was held in Chico the evening of December 13th at the office of Dr. N. T. Enloe. The following members were present: O. Hawkins of Biggs, L. L. Thompson of Gridley, C. L. Browning, O. Stansbury, N. T. Enloe, E. F. Gatchell of Chico, and Dr. Wullschlager of the United States Army as a visitor.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Dr. L. Q. Thompson of Gridley; vice-president, Dr. C. L. Browning of Chico; secretary and treasurer, Ella F. Gatchell of Chico; member of board of census, N. T. Enloe of Chico.

Drs. C. L. Browning of Chico, E. Kusel of Oroville, O. Hawkins of Biggs and L. Q. Thompson of Gridley were appointed a committee to confer with the local boards of health in the respective towns relative to the pure food and drug laws.

An able paper was presented by Dr. W. H. Banks on "Diabetes," in which he stated fully the different suppositions relative to the disease. The subject was still further discussed by Dr. Stansbury and other members. It was voted to hold the next meeting at Oroville in January.

ELLA F. GATCHELL, Secretary.

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY.**

The annual meeting of the San Joaquin County Medical Society was held Dec. 30, 1907, at the office of Dr. R. R. Hammond, with the following attendance: Drs. M. Goodman, J. D. Young, S. W. R. Langdon, S. F. Priestly, H. E. Sanderson, E. L. Blackmun, B. F. Walker, J. J. Tully, E. A. Arthur, R. R. Hammond, W. W. Fitzgerald, I. S. Zeimer, C. L. Six, Hudson Smythe, H. C. Petersen, A. W. Hoisholt, J. P. Hull, F. R. Clarke, R. B. Knight, H. N. Cross and C. R. Harry.

A communication to Dr. W. W. Fitzgerald was received from the New York Life Insurance Co. relative to the fee for medical examination in life insurance. It was moved and seconded that the Secretary reply to the same and inform the company that the society did not permit any of its members to make an examination for less than \$5.00.

This being the annual meeting, the election of

officers for the ensuing year took place with the following result:

President—E. A. Arthur.  
 First Vice-President—J. P. Hull.  
 Second Vice-President—Mary C. Taylor.  
 Secretary and Treasurer—B. F. Walker.  
 Delegates to State Society—R. R. Hammond and J. P. Hull.  
 Alternates—A. W. Hoisholt and H. E. Sanderson.  
 Committee on Admissions—M. Goodman, M. Smyth, R. R. Hammond, C. R. Harry and F. R. Clarke.  
 Committee on Ethics—A. W. Hoisholt, J. D. Young, J. P. Hull, W. W. Fitzgerald and H. Smythe.  
 Committee on Finance—S. E. Latta, J. J. Tully, H. E. Sanderson.  
 Trustees—J. G. Thompson, H. W. Taggart and D. F. Ray.

Dr. Langdon withdrew from the presidential nomination and Dr. Harry withdrew the name of Dr. B. J. Powell, nominee for Secretary and Treasurer, because of the absence of the doctor from the city.

No further business appearing the society adjourned.

R. B. KNIGHT, Sec'y Pro Tem.

#### SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.

At the annual business meeting of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society the following members were present: Drs. Barry, R. Brown, Dial, Conrad, Hindley, Morrey, Newman, Rowell and Stoddard.

Under the head of Papers and Discussions, the Society listened to an important paper by the retiring president, Dr. C. S. Stoddard, entitled "Medical Ethics." He was followed by Dr. Rexwall Brown on "Lodge Practice."

At the close of the regular program the Society proceeded to the election of new officers for the year 1908, with the following result: William T. Barry, M. D., president, Santa Barbara; W. A. Rowell, M. D., vice-president, Goleta; L. B. Coblentz, M. D., first vice-president at large, Santa Maria; R. W. Hill, M. D., second vice-president at large, Carpinteria; David A. Conrad, M. D., secretary-treasurer, Santa Barbara. The following delegate and alternate were elected for two years: William T. Barry, M. D., delegate, and Rexwall Brown, M. D. alternate.

#### SANTA CLARA COUNTY.

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 21, 1907.

The annual meeting of this society was held on December 18th, with forty-two members present. Besides the election of officers, those present listened to a very interesting paper presented by Dr. A. E. Osborne of Santa Clara. The result of the election was as follows: President, Dr. P. A. Jordan of San Jose; first vice-president, Dr. W. S. Van Dalsem of San Jose; second vice-president, W. F. Snow of Stanford University; third vice-president, W. W. Tourtillott of Morgan Hill; secretary, K. C. Park of San Jose (re-elected); treasurer, J. F. Burns of San Jose (re-elected); councillors, Drs. Simpson, Brown and Jayet of San Jose; delegate, Dr. Simpson of San Jose; alternate delegate, Dr. Wright of San Jose.

K. C. PARK, Secretary.

#### SONOMA COUNTY.

Sonoma County Medical Society met in Judge Seawell's courtroom. The new officers are: Dr. J. H. McLeod, president; W. J. Kerr, vice-president; G. W. Mallory, secretary; Lizzie Lain, Treasurer. The out-of-town doctors present were: Dr. J. R.

Swisher, John C. Condit, Healdsburg; W. J. Kerr and R. A. Miller of Sebastopol.

Dr. Swisher gave an interesting talk on our 1907 work. It made us feel that we had made much progress during the year. He was followed by the incoming president, Dr. J. H. McLeod, who gave us the reason why we should make our society attractive. Then followed Dr. F. O. Pryor's paper, "Observations and Experiences in Post-graduate Work." He related his experience in New York and Baltimore, of 1907, a most interesting paper to us all. Then we adjourned to the Occidental Hotel, where Dr. J. H. McLeod had prepared an excellent banquet, and while at the festive board, Dr. R. A. Miller, of Sebastopol, gave us his experience in the treatment of five cases of tetanus in which three patients recovered. His treatment was by the bromides and iodides. We adjourned to meet in Petaluma, February 13, 1908.

G. W. MALLORY, Secretary.

### PUBLICATIONS.

**The Principles and Practices of Dermatology.** By Wm. Allen Pusey. D. Appleton & Co., New York and London.

William Allen Pusey's book on the Principles and Practice of Dermatology is the most recent large text book published on the subject. The author has carefully described all rare cutaneous conditions, and his article on general cutaneous therapeutics is quite complete. A great deal has been taken from the standard books of Crocker, MacLeod, and Stelwagon.

The subject of electrical therapeutics is unusually interesting, particularly in relation to high frequency currents. The author claims that the high frequency currents are not of any more value than the ordinary brush discharge from a static machine. This seems to be a very narrow view as the action of high frequency currents is that of stimulation without discomfort, and this method of treatment is exceedingly satisfactory in various forms of localized pruritis, erythematosis, lupus, and some keratoses.

Dr. Pusey is an authority on radiotherapy, as he has probably done more work on this subject than any other dermatologist. His article on this subject is short but complete, and all people interested in this subject should consult it.

The subject on etiology of syphilis is interesting, but Dr. Pusey does not state that the spirocheta pallida is the specific organism. It seems pretty well accepted by all workers in bacteriology that at last the cause of syphilis is known, and it is unfortunate that a recent standard text book should not take this stand. The photomicrographs of spirocheta pallida are very poor. The references are very incomplete, but these were probably omitted to keep down the size of the book.

Tropical diseases are carefully considered. The great number of excellent photographs increase the value of the book. Besides many collected from other authors, Dr. Pusey has used many of his own. A few of these are poor, and should be omitted.

The article on sycosis is apt to be misleading to the student. The terms simple and common sycosis are used. This is unfortunate as sycosis has already been christened true, idiopathic, coccogenic, and vulgaris, to distinguish it from sycosis barbae. The latter is real barber's itch, a condition produced by the ring worm fungus.

There is plenty of library space for this book, as it is complete, up-to-date, easy to read, and the great number of photographs add to its value.

H. M.